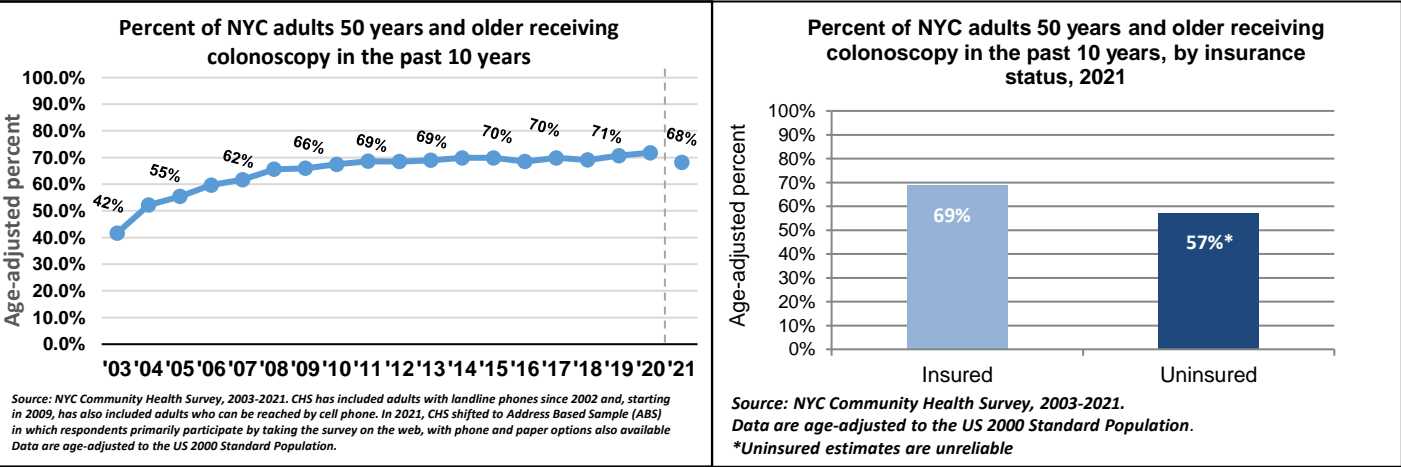




NYC Community Cares Project

Increasing Screening Colonoscopies for Uninsured New Yorkers

The NYC Health Department’s NYC Community Cares Project facilitates partnerships between Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) and primary care centers such as Community Health Centers (CHCs) to provide all aspects of colonoscopy screenings (anesthesia, procedure, pathology) FREE of charge to uninsured patients referred from primary care sites. This collaboration provides a unique opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates and tackle persisting health disparities.



Background

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer death in NYC.¹ As a CRC screening tool, colonoscopy detects cancer early and prevents it by removing adenomas, which are a type of precancerous polyp.²

Since 2003, NYC made significant strides in colonoscopy screening trends:

- An increase in screening rate for people aged 50-75 from 42% in 2003 to 72% in 2020, shown in the line graph to the left³
- A reduction in screening inequalities by income⁴

However, inequalities by insurance status remain, shown in the bar graph to the left. Now that widespread screening is recommended at age 45, even more capacity for charity care is needed.

Participating Organizations			
Primary Care Centers		Ambulatory Surgery Centers	
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center	Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	Advanced Endoscopy Center	Manhattan Endoscopy Center
Community Healthcare Network	NYC H+H/Gotham Health/East New York	Goldstep Ambulatory Surgery Center	Queens Boulevard Endoscopy Center
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone	NYC H+H/Gotham Health/Gouverneur	Kips Bay Endoscopy Center	The Endoscopy Center of New York
Flushing Hospital Medical Center	NYC H+H/Gotham Health/Morrisania	Liberty Endoscopy Center	
Institute for Family Health	Ryan Health Network		

Latest Outcomes: From August 2013 through March 2023, a total of **10,409 uninsured patients have been referred** for colonoscopy and **5,180 have completed screening**. Of those, **1,610 patients had adenomas removed**, meaning that up to 1,610 cases of CRC were potentially averted.

1. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2020) Vital Statistics. Retrieved July 14, 2023.
2. Winawer SJ, Fletcher RH, Miller L. (1997) Colorectal cancer screening: clinical guidelines and rationale. *Gastroenterology*. 112; 594-642.
3. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2021). Community Health Survey. Retrieved July 14, 2023.
4. Itzkowitz, S. H. et al., New York Citywide colon cancer control coalition: A public health effort to increase colon cancer screening and address health disparities. *Cancer*, 2015.

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